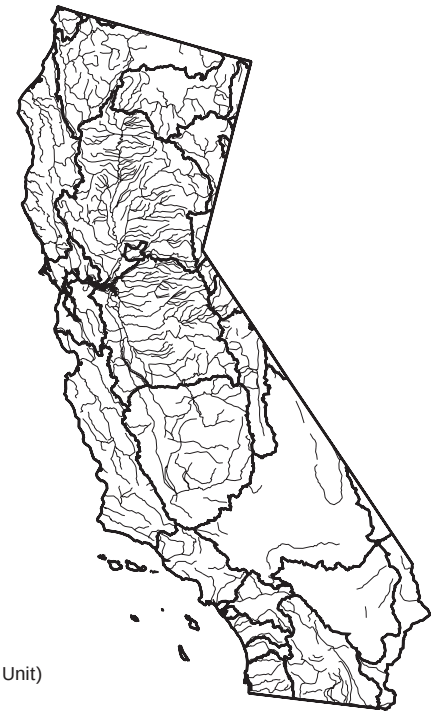
California



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the California 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Siltation, metals, nutrients, and bacteria impair the most river miles in California. The leading sources of degradation in California's rivers and streams are agriculture, unspecified nonpoint sources, forestry activities, urban runoff and storm sewers, and municipal point sources. In lakes, siltation, metals, and nutrients are the most common pollutants. Hydrologic/habitat modifications pose the greatest threat to lake water quality, followed by urban runofff/storm sewers, construction/ land development, and atmospheric deposition.

Metals, pesticides, trace elements, and unknown toxic contaminants are the most frequently identified pollutants in estuaries, harbors, and bays. Urban runoff and storm sewers are the leading source of pollution in California's coastal waters, followed by municipal sewage treatment plants, agriculture, spills, resource extraction, and industrial dischargers. Oceans and open bays are degraded by industrial and municipal point sources.

Ground Water Quality

Salinity, total dissolved solids, and chlorides are the most frequently identified pollutants impairing use of ground water in California, followed by nutrients and pesticides. Leading sources are septage disposal, agriculture, and dairies. The State also reports that trace inorganic elements, flow alterations, and nitrates degrade over 1,000 square miles of ground water aquifers.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

California's stormwater permit program, which was the first in the Nation, has matured into an aggressive program to reduce pollution associated with stormwater runoff.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is embarking on a Watershed Management Initiative in order to integrate point and nonpoint pollution source controls on a watershed basis.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Saltwater monitoring in 1994 and 1995 included shellfish tissue analysis from coastal sites, sediment chemistry and toxicity testing (bioassays) in bays and estuaries, a regional monitoring pilot project along the coast, and water column monitoring for toxic pollutants in San Francisco Bay.

Inland water monitoring included toxicity testing and pesticide analysis in some agricultural areas, statewide fish tissue sampling, biological monitoring in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and several nonpoint source pollution studies in river basins around the State.

Individual Use Support in California

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles/Acres/Square Miles Assessed	Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 211,513)[b]						
	12,451	28	2	66	4	-
	8,318	33	<1	66	1	-
	12,185	27	1	67	5	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 1,672,684)						
	678,221	18	1	80	1	-
	484,990	19	2	79	<1	-
	670,771	18	2	80	<1	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 731.1)						
	700	7	3	83	6	-
	699	8	3	86	3	-
	545	11	4	84	1	-
	820	37	<1	62	<1	-

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of California's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.